Students, Professors Stage Protest Against CIA Recruiters at Wesleyan

By KATHLEEN MEGAN
Courant Staff Writer

MIDDLETOWN — Nearly 20 Wesleyan University students and a handful of their professors sat in the hallways and stood outside the doors of the campus Career Planning Center for eight hours Thursday to protest a visit from two CIA recruiters.

The protesters intended to make it "as difficult as possible" for students seeking interviews and for the CIA representatives without actually preventing the interviews from taking place, according to Andrew Tauber, a senior and one of the protesters.

Barbara-Jan Wilson, director of the Career Planning Center, said 16 students had scheduled interviews with the CIA represent- atives and all but one kept the appointment.

The student who broke her appointment said "it wasn't worth it" when she appeared at the Career Planning Center and saw the protesters, Wilson said. There was no violence and no chanting or jeering, Wilson said.

"We aren't stopping people from having interviews," Tauber said, "but as we sat in the stairwell, people had to physically step over us and across us. . . . We recognize that we are causing a disruption and minor inconvenience to people applying for jobs, but we ask them to bear in mind that CIA intervention in Nicaragua and Chile more harshly affect the lives of people there."

It was the CIA's first visit to the campus in more than 10 years, Wilson said. The agency has been getting "much more open about recruiting," Wilson said, and this academic year its representatives will make visits to Yale University, Connecticut College and Trinity College.

Patrick Costello, a 22-year-old senior who kept his 11 a.m. appointment with a CIA recruiter, said he was not bothered by the protest.

Dean of the College Edgar Beckham said he did not object to the protest because students who wanted interviews could have them.

Wilson said that when the protest ended at 5 p.m., it was unclear whether the student judiciary board would seek any disciplinary action.